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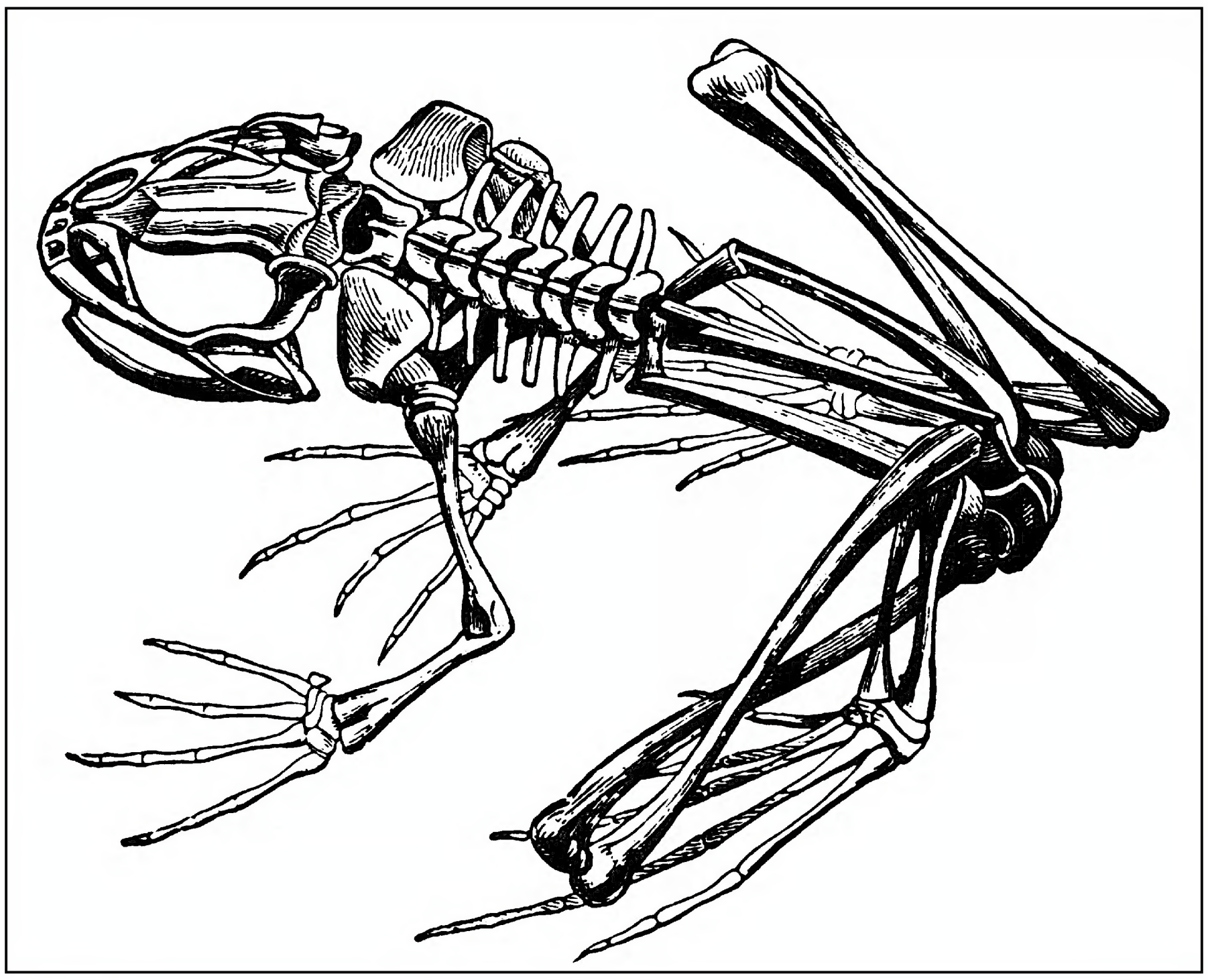

BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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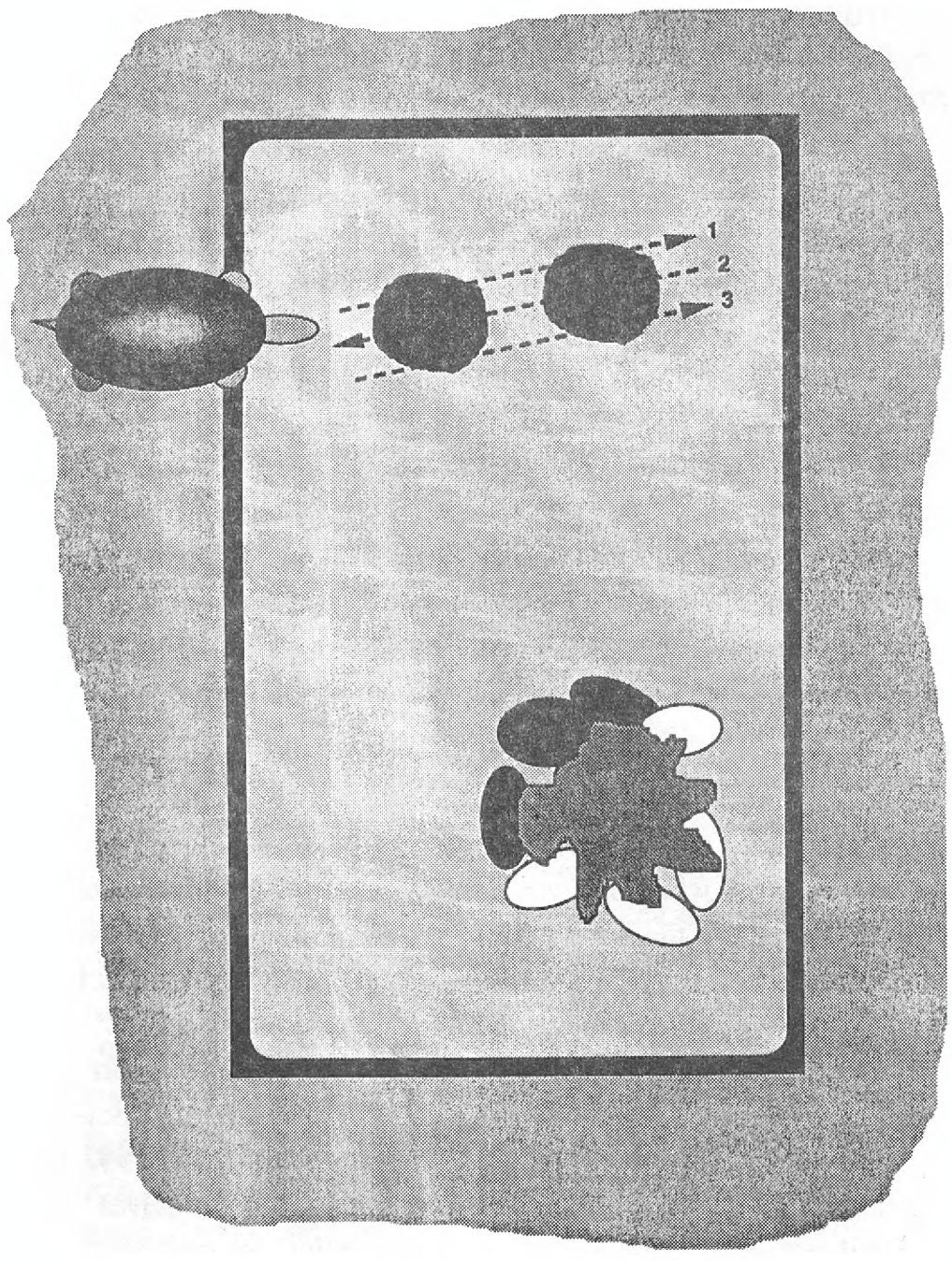
Stomping for Earthworms by *Clemmys insculpta* in Captivity

David Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., and Catherine Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.
Laurel Ridge #3, HWY 54 Bypass
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

On 6 August 1995, a female wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) was observed stomping for earthworms. What makes this behavior unusual is that it occurred in an indoor, artificial environment, in a relatively small dirt section, with a female that has been in captivity for more than six years, apparently in response to a specific non-natural cue.

The female in question is one of a trio of wood turtles, one male and two females, kept in a wooden-floored enclosure measuring approximately 4′ × 8′. Within the enclosure a large plastic tub (21″ × 28″ × 10″ deep) containing dirt, a few larger rocks and a plant, has been recessed such that the edge of the tub is flush with the wooden floor. A tub of similar size in another area of the enclosure is filled with water to act as a small pond for soaking. The male wood turtle spends a majority of his time in the water, while the females move around the enclosure to a greater extent. In addition to the three *Clemmys*, two box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*), a male and a female, are housed in the same enclosure. The land area has been used for egg deposition by the female box turtle three separate times.



This diagram shows the location of the two dirt piles and the course that the wood turtle traversed during the session of earthworm stomping described in the text. The extent of the land area is shown by the dark border. At the front of the area is a plant, surrounded by rocks to prevent the turtles from trampling the plant.

At approximately 1100 h on 6 August 1995, dirt from a plastic cup used to hold earthworms was emptied onto the land area in a few discrete piles (the earthworms in the cup had been fed to other turtles). This cup has been used for earthworm storage for many months, and the wood turtles appear to recognize it as a source of earthworms, as they become agitated upon seeing it, in a manner similar to that exhibited when they are presented with earthworms. One female *C. insculpta* moved over in front of one dirt pile and elevated her back end slightly. Keeping her left foreleg tucked in close to her shell and her right foreleg extended at a 45° angle away from her shell, she rocked slightly sideways, bringing her plastron down onto the ground with a thump. Contact with the ground seemed to be made by the plastron in a line extending from one front leg to the other. This thumping movement was performed about 6–10 times. Each repetition was progressively louder; the turtle further elevated her rear on the strongest thumps near the end of the cycle. At this point the turtle paused and began thrusting her extended right front leg into the ground with moderate speed. These thrusting/pawing motions lasted for 5–10 seconds, and then the turtle moved forward slightly (approximately 1–2 inches). The stomping movement was then repeated. After one repetition, the turtle seized a worm that had moved to the surface of the dirt pile and consumed it. Stomping motions, interrupted with pawing/thrusting motions, were then resumed. Eventually the turtle moved completely over the first dirt pile, flattening it entirely, and continued across the land area to a second pile. A second worm was discovered and consumed. After moving across the second dirt pile, the turtle turned around and began moving back across the land area again. The wood turtle left a noticeably flattened line of dirt behind her as she moved. The behavior lasted approximately 12 minutes, in which time the turtle moved approximately 30 inches with two reversals of direction. Two worms were discovered and consumed.

The thumping motion was ignored by the other two wood turtles. One female remained approximately two feet away during the whole period; the male was resting in the water area. However, the female box turtle followed the wood turtle, digging in the flattened dirt behind the *Clemmys*. The *T. carolina* attempted to wrest the first worm away from the wood turtle, and was partially successful.

Some points of note in this observation:

- This behavior was exhibited by a long-term captive.
- It occurred in an environment that only approximated a wild environment.
- Other wood turtles within sight and sound ignored the stomping motions.
- The behavior was initiated apparently in response to a cue that was previously recognized by the turtle as a signal for the arrival of earthworms.

Stomping for earthworms has been reported previously by a number of researchers (summarized in Ernst et al., 1994). The behavior was exhibited by turtles in a wild population of *Clemmys insculpta* under study in Pennsylvania (Kaufmann, 1986). The motions of the turtles initially demonstrating earthworm stomping, as described by Kaufmann, correspond well to the observed motions of the female *C. insculpta* described here, although there are some alterations in the exact sequence of events during a bout of stomping. Stomping has also been observed in captive-born juveniles by James Harding (Kaufmann et al., 1989). Based on this observation, it appears that stomping is instinctual in wood turtles. However, *C. insculpta* is capable of modifying this inborn behavior based on acquired knowledge, as demonstrated by the female turtle's actions described above.

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The Global Decline in Amphibian Species: A Perceptual Deficit in the Zoo and Conservation Community

Karl H. Peterson
Department of Batrachology and Herpetology
Houston Zoological Gardens
1513 N. MacGregor
Houston, TX 77030

Abstract

The zoo and conservation communities have responded to the global decline in amphibian species in various ways. However, both communities are deficient in their perception and presentation of amphibians. This perceptual deficit may impede amphibian conservation.

The decline in some amphibian species is well documented in the literature (e.g., FROGLOG, 1992-1995; Banks et al., 1994; Blaustein, 1994; Corn, 1994; Gilbert et al., 1994; Jennings and Hayes, 1994; Johnson, 1994; Kuzmin, 1994; Mittermier and Carr, 1994; Pearmon et al., 1995; Phillips, 1994; Zimmermann and Zimmermann, 1994; Blaustein and Wake, 1995; Duellman, 1995). While there is some question as to whether or not these declines represent natural population fluctuations or a global phenomenon that transcends the general biodiversity crisis (Blaustein, 1994; Corn, 1994; Pechmann et al., 1991; Pechmann and Wilbur, 1994; McCoy, 1994; Duellman, 1995), further research concerning amphibian population status is unquestionably warranted. Such research is largely funded by the nonspecialist community (defined as all individuals not familiar with the technical literature concerning amphibian declines) via tax revenues supporting academic and governmental entities and donations to the zoo and conservation communities. While the zoo and conservation communities are engaged in some research concerning amphibian declines, education programs/literature emphasizing amphibian conservation are important (Weise and Hutchins, 1994) and perhaps the most significant contribution zoos and conservation organizations can make towards garnering support from the nonspecialist community for amphibian conservation (although their efficacy is debatable [Jamieson, 1995].) However, the zoo and conservation communities exhibit a perceptual deficit in how they perceive (and thus present) amphibians; this perceptual deficit may compromise their attempts to educate the nonspecialist community concerning all aspects of the class Amphibia.

There is a historical, epistemological problem in how the class Amphibia is generally perceived. Amphibians have long been associated with reptiles by referring to the study of both as herpetology, which is a remnant of centuries-old theory that has persisted into the modern day (see for example Goin et al., 1978; Dubois, 1991). The academic community knows this is an arbitrary, obsolete association between two profoundly different vertebrate classes, and periodic attempts have been made to split the studies of the two groups into separate disciplines (see discussions in Dubois, 1991; and Gollmann, 1992.) I will return later to how the academic community perceives amphibians; it is how the zoo and conservation community perceives amphibians and reptiles that primarily concerns me.

Until recently, zoos exhibited amphibians and reptiles together in the same facility; I am unaware of any exception to

this. (The recent trend toward exhibiting multi-class taxa [i.e., biome exhibits] has done little, if anything, to address the issue I'm concerned with in this discussion; these facilities are thus excluded.) In the most optimistic view, an amphibian and reptile facility would clearly indicate the profound difference between both taxa. Furthermore, all the visitors would stop, read, comprehend, and fully integrate the information into their world view. In a more typical case, which I have observed for the last 18 years at various zoos, the visitors walk into a facility labeled "Reptiles" that also contains amphibians. There is little or no information that indicates an amphibian is not a reptile, and even if there is, most visitors ignore it. The building design, the graphics, and how the specimens are exhibited all assume the average visitor already fully comprehends the fundamental difference between an amphibian and a reptile. This is not the case, and zoos must stop making this assumption. This assumption is the ghost of the centuries-old taxonomic association between amphibians and reptiles, the ghost that is responsible for the perceptual deficit in how amphibians are perceived in the present day.

The cognitive models discussed in Husserl (1913), Kuhn (1970), and Kihlstrom (1987) best explain a process I propose takes place when a visitor walks into a facility that exhibits amphibians and reptiles in the manner of most zoos. (This process occurs even if both taxa are clearly differentiated, due to a practical reason [the low number of people who read graphic texts] and the reason developed below.) Due to the historic and present day artificial association between amphibians and reptiles, at a fundamental level of cognitive awareness, amphibians are subordinate to and thus inseparable from reptiles in the minds of most people. I have abundant personal knowledge of this phenomenon. An informal survey of eight year and older visitors at the Houston Zoo showed most had no real concept of what an amphibian is. "Sharks," "Fish," "Turtles," "Alligators," "Crocodiles" and (significantly) "Reptiles" were among the responses to the question "What is an amphibian?" I have spent many years reminding fellow zoo employees and docents our facility houses both taxa, but they almost invariably refer to it as the "Reptile House." That is how the public identifies our facility at best (at worst, the "Snake House"), and that is how the keeper staff identifies our facility. Finally, I sometimes lapse and use the term "Reptile House" myself. (I remember the frustration my predecessor, Hugh Quinn, exhibited when he tried to have us all use the term "Herpetology Section" or "Amphibians and Reptiles" instead of "Reptile House.") I have observed the same thing happen numerous times at other zoos, and this practice is so entrenched it is commonly used in the literature as well (e.g., Anon., 1993; Anon., 1994a; Anon., 1994b; AZA Directory, 1990-1991 through 1994-1995; Brock, 1994; Behler, 1995; Davis, 1979; Marcellini, 1981; Pawley, 1981; Payne, 1979; Perry-Richardson, 1990; Snider, 1986). This conflation of the two classes is not "just" a linguistical problem (linguist theory does address and explain the significance of this type of phenomenon); the cognitive models discussed in Husserl (1913), Kuhn (1970), and Kihlstrom (1987) suggest how critical this phenomenon is. At a conscious level, anyone who knows there is a difference between the object "amphibian" and the object "reptile" can readily identify each with varying degrees of accuracy. But at a deeper, more fundamental level (e.g., the "cognitive unconscious," the "gestalt," the "subconscious mind"), amphibians remain inseparable from reptiles. The ghost of past taxonomy is haunting most people at a level they're not even aware of. It also haunts the subdiscipline of zoology concerned with amphibian and reptile research: herpetology.

While there are some practical reasons why the study of amphibians and reptiles is still called herpetology, Kuhn's (1970) model explained the resistance the many (most herpetologists) have towards the advocacy of the few (i.e., Dubois, 1991) for making the study of each class a separate discipline. All scientists are exposed to a select set of data and commonly-shared concepts, particularly during the earlier phases of their training. This is a normal and essential component of science, since no advances could take place if there were not an agreed-upon conceptual framework and language with which to communicate with one another. However, this process also establishes limits on a scientist's perception, both within and without her/his area of expertise. Most scientists who grew up interested in amphibians and reptiles (i.e., reading about them) and then studied them in an academic setting were influenced by the historical association between amphibians and reptiles (i.e., it is normal to consider the study of both as one discipline.) Thus, they can understand the intellectual concepts discussed in Dubois (1991), but they can't perceive or "feel" the importance of the same. (And anyone who doesn't believe "feeling" has an influence in science should read several recent taxonomic discussions that illustrate this point (e.g., DeQueiroz, 1995; Dowling, 1993; Frost and Etheridge, 1993; King, 1994; Kluge, 1994, 1995; Lazell, 1992, 1994; Meylan, 1995; Pritchard, 1994; Schwenk, 1994.) Thus, those who advocate the study of amphibians be considered an independent discipline will continue to meet resistance from those still haunted by the ghost of past taxonomy.

I am less concerned with how the academic community perceives amphibians than I am with how the zoo and conservation community perceives amphibians. However, the above discussion shows how those who do understand the utter difference between amphibians and reptiles are resistant to identifying amphibians as a separate biological entity, a biological entity that should be recognized by establishing its study as an independent discipline (Dubois, 1991). I doubt Dubois' (1991) view will soon prevail in the academic community, but two of the points he raises are directly germane to the zoo and conservation community.

The historical association of amphibians and reptiles has impeded research into many aspects of amphibian biology. Dubois (1991) cites numerous examples, but I think a comparison of the number of citations for Amphibia versus Reptilia in Zoological Record is an adequate example. In zoological collections, the same historical association between the two taxa has had a similar effect. Amphibians have never been exhibited or maintained in proportional numbers (personal observations; IZY 1970-1995; ISIS, 1992-1995; Slavens, 1976, 1977, 1980-1994), and they have never been reproduced

in proportional numbers (IZY 1970-1995; Johnson, 1994.) In the conservation community, proportionately less money is spent on amphibians and reptiles than other vertebrate taxa (Mittermier et al., 1992; Mittermier and Carr, 1994), with amphibians pitted against reptiles for funding. From the above, it is clear the ghost of past taxonomy haunts the zoo and conservation community the same way it haunts the academic community.

Dubois (1991) made another important point: Recognizing the study of amphibians as a separate discipline would "...increase the efficiency of their conservation. This aim is certainly worthwhile, indeed critical, if some amphibians are to survive into the next century." The following is how I suggest Dubois' (1991) above two points relate to the zoo and conservation community.

Elevating the study of amphibians to an independent discipline would finally free a monophyletic class (the Amphibia) from centuries of conceptual enslavement to one that ironically never was "real" (the Reptilia) and may be in a process of dissolution (see discussions in Duellman and Trueb, 1986; Estes and Reig, 1973; Gollman, 1992; Zug, 1993). The zoo and conservation community must realize this fundamental concept; we must exhibit what Kuhn (1970) termed a "paradigm shift" in our perception and presentation of the class Amphibia. If we don't stop associating amphibians with reptiles the way we do, we will never be able to induce a paradigm shift where it's needed the most: in the non-specialist community. The nonspecialist community will never fully comprehend the status of the Amphibia as an independent biological entity. The nonspecialist community will never fully comprehend that the first terrestrial vertebrate class to appear may be the first vertebrate class to disappear. The non-specialist community will not understand the global decline in amphibian populations and species is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, challenges conservation biologists currently face. We must conceptually and physically separate the amphibia from the reptilia and establish their independence in our own minds before we can hope to do the same in the non-specialist community, the people who ultimately fund our attempts at amphibian research and conservation.

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Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 31(2):26, 1996

Erratum: An Incubator with Daily Temperature Fluctuations

In July 1995, due to a production error, an incorrect figure appeared in the article by Jef Nijs, "An Incubator with Daily Temperature Fluctuations: A Better Way to Incubate Eggs from Turtles with Temperature-dependent Sex Determination?" (Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(7):141-144). The graph of daily temperature regime shown in Figure 2 incorrectly duplicated the graph in Figure 4. The proper Figure 2 is shown here to the right.

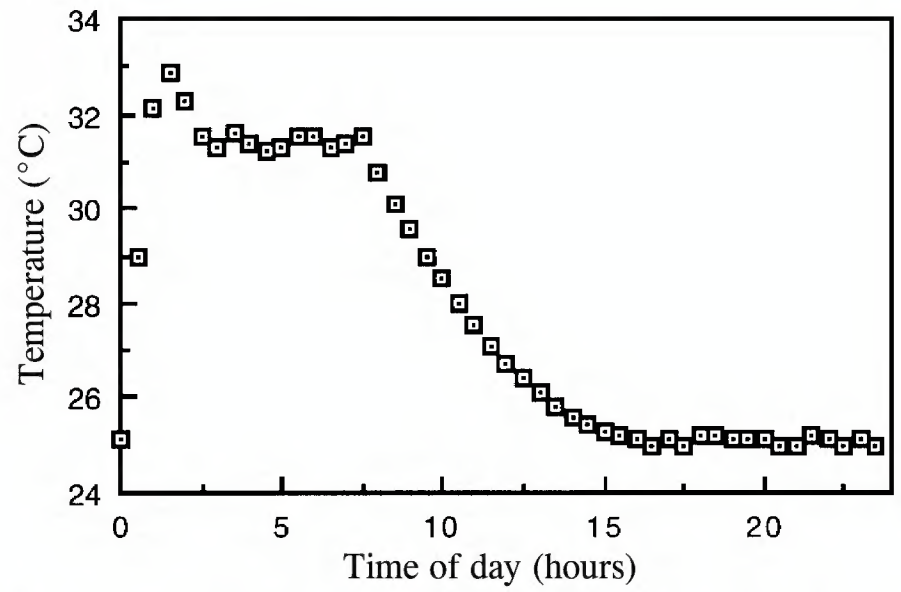

Figure 2. Daily temperature regime during the second experiment.

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 31(2):27-28, 1996

Book Review: *Rattler Tales from Northcentral Pennsylvania* by C. E. Brennan 1995. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA. xx + 154 pp.

$15.95 Softbound [Available from CHS Book Service - Member's Price $14.36]

William S. Brown
Department of Biology
Skidmore College
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

A new popular book about one of the better-known rattlesnake species may seem to some, perhaps, repetitive or unnecessary, but such is not the case with this book. The author, Curt Brennan, tells the story of his lifelong experiences with the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), initially as one who relentlessly hunted this species but currently as one who champions its conservation.

A native of northcentral Pennsylvania, where he is a state forest maintenance supervisor, Brennan weaves an intriguing narrative on the plight of the timber rattlesnake and the saga of the individuals who have exploited it. The book's mixture of natural history, adventure, and ecological science argues for giving *Rattler Tales* a place on the bookshelf of snake enthusiasts and amateur naturalists, primarily. In addition, resource managers and conservation biologists concerned about human attitudes toward certain unpopular or misunderstood wildlife species will find this book to be well worth reading.

An informative forward by Clark Shiffer, former herpetology and endangered species coordinator of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, sets the stage by reviewing his own early associations with timber rattlesnakes and by summarizing the development of rattlesnake roundups since the first in Pennsylvania was held in 1955 (at Morris, Tioga County). Shiffer informs us that today, unfortunately, approximately one dozen community-sponsored and state-permitted rattlesnake roundups are held annually in Pennsylvania.

A preface by the author makes clear his intentions for the book. Brennan says, "I want to give the timber rattlesnake a break by intercepting the new generation of rattlesnake hunters before they recklessly deliver the final blow. . . . the reader is warned that this account of my experiences, and those of my partners and the fellow snake hunters I interviewed, is not supposed to frighten or sensationalize, but is intended to portray our evolution from snake takers to snake observers."

In brief, the 13 chapters cover Brennan's early interest in these snakes; his initial successful exploits with his snake-hunting buddy and their winning a trophy for "most" snakes at the Morris hunt; rural attitudes of those living in rattler country; the timber rattlesnake's habitat, lifestyle, seasonal behaviors, and denning habits in the "upper ledges" with which Brennan is so familiar (chapters 4 and 5); a fairly complete biographical summary of the pioneering radiotelemetric research of Howard Reinert on *Crotalus horridus* ("They Have a Friend in Pennsylvania"); methods, both good and bad, of hunting the snake, including the regulations (permit required, season, limits) for doing so in Pennsylvania; a glimpse into the personalities of several of the author's close friends and their field adventures ("The Really Dangerous Ones"); excursions into the woods to locate a long-lost cave; philosophical reflections on secret spots; excerpts from personal interviews with six diehard rattlesnake hunters; an account of the senseless killing of a known individual rattlesnake; and a review of the timber rattlesnake's population history as affected by the preceding century of logging, wildfires, and forest succession, and its precarious status today.

Following the meat of the book, there are three two-page sections: references (25 listed: a mixture of technical articles on snakes [eight by H. K. Reinert], popular snake accounts, and historical books of the region), a subject index, and a name index of individuals mentioned or of authors cited. These sections are welcome parts of any book, even in a relatively slim volume such as this, and they definitely enhance the book's usefulness.

Twenty black-and-white illustrations are scattered through the text, illustrating mainly two classes of subjects: the timber rattlesnake in nature, in coiled postures, and/or being handled or measured; and persons engaged in some snaking-related activity. A good many of the illustrations are full facial sketches of snake hunters and the author's personal friends (one even depicts the author's teenage daughter confronting another teenager encountered on a rattlesnake hunting expedition). Although the author does not mention who drew the book's figures, one drawing of a timber rattlesnake coiled beside a fallen log and ready to ambush its prey (here called, for the first time, the "Reinert posture" to honor the behavior's describer) appears as the cover illustration and is attributed to the author. This leads one to suspect that Curt Brennan himself may be the illustrator throughout. An exception seems to be a detailed Pennsylvania range map of *C. horridus* drawn by W. H. Martin.

In addition to his artistic talents, the author displays his writing proficiency. Brennan is often humorous, adept at providing nontechnical summaries of scientific findings, and definitely skilled at relating the personalities and opinions of those who have hunted timber rattlesnakes. The book, a contribution in the Pitt Series in Nature and Natural History, is attractively produced and, so far as I could discern, is free of typographical, spelling, or production errors. This is a tribute both to the author and to the series editor, Marcia Bonta.

This reviewer recently published a critique of Pennsylvania's management of its wild stocks of the timber rattlesnake, stating: "Pennsylvania provides an excellent case study of mismanagement. Rattlesnake hunting has been shown to cause injury and cruelty to captured snakes, displacement from familiar range, and removal of gravid females from already-depleted populations" (Brown, 1993, SSAR Herpetological

Circular 22, p. 30).

All of the snake hunters interviewed by Brennan acknowledged openly the severe reduction of populations caused by directed, often purposeful, overhunting of rattlesnake dens. For example, one said: "I knew of about thirty pretty good dens, ten or fifteen years ago. Now, I know of about a dozen places, maybe, where I could take someone to see snakes, but we'd be lucky to find one to three at each den." Another recalled: "I got areas I cleaned out entirely when I was huntin' for bounty. There's not a snake in 'em."

These anecdotal accounts of the snake's depletion are supported independently (but not in Brennan's book) by the 50-year data set of one of the most competent of the "old-timers" in Pennsylvania, Stephen H. Harwig. In a poster presentation (symposium on eastern rattlesnakes at the 1995 annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles [SSAR] at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina), Harwig reported seeing just over 5,000 timber rattlesnakes in approximately 2,800 den visits. Surely, these impressive data must be virtually unmatched among contemporary naturalists. Steve Harwig's *sighting* records, amassed repeatedly at some 300 Pennsylvania dens that he and his colleagues personally surveyed, were summarized in his report. He states that these dens continue to undergo a serious population decline.

I was impressed by several of Brennan's confirmatory observations regarding two additional and important conservation problems. These two threats are conspicuous and have plagued the timber rattlesnake for decades in Pennsylvania. They are: (1) habitat destruction and (2) translocation of rattlesnakes from den to den. Brennan correctly takes pains to tie both of these problems specifically to snake hunters and their sport.

Habitat destruction is exemplified repeatedly in the book. Brennan recounts once taking a group of conservation corps youths in to a rattlesnake denning area to educate them. He says: " . . . the youngsters would never know where they were or tell anyone. Wrong! One of the boys knew exactly where he was, and his dad worked with a fellow who had a reputation for being downright hard on rattlesnakes." Later, the author returned to the spot only to find that "it looked like a large bulldozer had been on the scene. There wasn't an unturned rock. The rattlers were gone—and I was solely to blame [for revealing the spot to other humans]."

Elsewhere, the author notes the severe destruction of habitat: "On most of the hills where we hunted we found evidence of past rattler hunting. It was obvious that many of the talus slopes had been raked viciously by previous hunters . . . some of the slides had been worked over repeatedly through the years. In areas like these, we found it difficult to locate even one or two timber rattlesnakes."

Misguided translocation of the snakes by snake hunters is mentioned often and emphatically. This should serve as a warning to biologists who would contemplate conducting research on the genetic differences between den populations. If a researcher wants to assess effects such as the degree of relatedness or interchange among subpopulations (metapopulation analysis, a hot topic in conservation biology), I would suggest, based on Brennan's revelations, that these basic research questions would be better addressed in undisturbed areas, i.e., areas far removed from the mountains of north-central Pennsylvania.

A more immediate threat posed by unwitting translocation of these snakes was reported recently by Howard Reinert, who, in the 1995 SSAR rattlesnake symposium, summarized his recent radiotracking work that addresses translocation as a conservation problem. He reported that "foreign" (translocated) timber rattlesnakes clearly behaved as though they were lost, traveled significantly longer distances while apparently trying to "find" themselves, formed associations with native conspecifics in seemingly aberrant and overly dependent ways (as if "tagging along"), and, when they attempted to overwinter in a den "foreign" to them, perished at a higher rate than did the snakes native to that den.

Brennan says "When smart hunters release rattlers, it is at the point of capture; otherwise the snakes will probably never be seen again." Remarking on the pervasiveness among snake hunters of this impact, Brennan observes: "All the snake hunters I know personally have translocated rattlers at least once, and some have repeatedly. *Most* of us have had enough sense not to put them in places where they have never historically existed; but beyond that, it's guess work. . . . this practice is relatively common and widespread . . ." Releasing timber rattlesnakes in unfamiliar territory has been very damaging biologically to the spatial structure of this species' populations. The genetic integrity of many timber rattlesnake dens appears to have been seriously compromised by snake hunting.

No doubt, the rugged forests of the high plateau, or Big Woods, a stronghold within the timber rattlesnake's range and described so well in this book, would be a wilderness far less endearing without its native timber rattlesnake. No doubt also, many could not be convinced of this truth. The author's conviction, nonetheless, is that "positive information and education may be the deciding factor" in enhancing the timber rattlesnake's prospects for survival. In *Rattler Tales*, Curt Brennan succeeds in engaging the reader by providing about as full an understanding as is possible of the mystique of the interactions of man and snake in an outpost of late twentieth century North America. If the primary audience of this book includes resource management professionals as well as an abundance of snake hunters, it will have well served its purpose.

NEWTLINE

The CHS has accomplished a great many things in 1995, and it was already time to move on to the challenges of '96, among them, the "changing of the guard." The Chicago Herpetological Society's meeting on December 27, 1995, at the Field Museum was the last official meeting for **Marcia Rybak** as President. She humbly thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as President for the past two years and considered the service an "enriching experience." She explained that she would be moving out of state and that while she had made a lot of "really nice friends," she admitted that she did not enjoy the long drive to meetings twice a month from Lake Forest. It was then time for business and announcements as usual. On behalf of the Field Museum, Marcia reminded us not to bring animals inside the museum, including frozen dead mice, and not to park our vehicles in the red fire zone. Amphibian Club representative **David Golde** announced that the club's next meeting would be held on January 17, 1996, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M., at the Skokie Public Library. David was excited to announce that the newly formed club has plans already in the works to assist in an amphibian project with the Cook County Forest Preserve District. In other news, **Jack Schoenfelder** announced that Porter Township, Indiana, was still looking for volunteer speakers for a presentation on trees and geology. Member-at-Large **Nicole Marrello** announced that until the CHS Bulletin Board can be found, a "Bulletin Table" will be available where news-clippings, want-ads, workshop announcements and other items of general interest can be posted. Merchandiser **Joan Moore** was in the seasonal spirit, dressed in an adorable sweatshirt that pictured a green frog in a red Santa cap. She offered "end-of-the-year book stuff", as well as 1996 calendars, and specials on overstocked books.

Following a 30-minute break, **Dave Beamer** conducted the ever-popular raffle and Vice-President **Chris Lechowicz** introduced **Robert Henderson**, Curator of Herpetology at the Milwaukee Public Museum in Wisconsin. Robert admitted that he was afraid that due to the holiday season, the turnout for his presentation would be small. He was pleasantly surprised, smiled and said, "It is very gratifying to see so many people." Robert began his presentation, entitled "Boas of the New World" by showing slides of different types of boas including Cuban boa, Colombian boa constrictor, rainbow boa, emerald tree boa, Amazon tree boa and anaconda. Robert presented a distribution map of South America marking the range of each species of boa.

For the past 15 years, Robert has been conducting field work on Neotropical "boines", as they are known collectively. He noted that some boines are among the most generalized species of snakes, meaning they exist in many types of habitat, cover a broad latitudinal range, and consume a great variety of food. By studying stomach contents, Robert learned that the emerald tree boa feeds almost exclusively on rodents. He also discovered an anaconda which had regurgitated an entire white-tailed deer. He remarked that a snake can consume as much as 25% of its own body weight.

While studying tree boas in the West Indies, Robert noted that they come in a wide variety of colors and markings, and can be found in a variety of habitats. He decided to investigate whether there is any significant correlation between these snakes' coloring and their habitat. For this study, he chose to conduct his field work on the island of Grenada because the tree boas there display a wide spectrum of color variations.

A technique Robert calls "fishing for snakes" was used to capture tree boas. At night, equipped with a headlamp and snake hook, Robert looks for a single reflection of light, usually reddish-orange in color—the eye of a tree snake. This was not to be mistaken for a double reflection which might indicate a bat or other small animal. Using the snake hook, Robert "fishes" the snake from the tree, and then weighs it, measures it and marks it with paint. (The paint is nontoxic and the snake typically sheds it within two weeks.) The location of the tree boa is noted, its distance from the ground (usually under 3 meters) and overall habitat is also recorded. Robert is careful to return the snake to the exact branch from which it came. In a few lucky individuals, radiotelemetry devices are surgically implanted, which will help track the snake during the day.

After the data had been gathered, they could be plotted on a graph. Snakes were grouped into three color variations: yellow, taupe, and dark green or black. Results revealed a tendency for yellow snakes to be found in hot, dry areas, with very little rain, while taupe snakes came from mid-temperature agricultural areas, and the darker snakes were found in cooler, undisturbed habitats with high humidity, typically over 400 meters in elevation.

To determine if the color of the snake truly affects how these boas behave and thermoregulate in the wild, Robert took snakes of each of these colors and placed them at different elevations and habitats. With the aid of surgically implanted temperature-sensitive radio transmitters, the locations and body temperatures of the snakes were monitored after allowing them approximately two weeks to acclimate. Results so far have been inconclusive due to the low numbers of snakes involved in the experiment.

Robert concluded his presentation by endorsing our very own Northwestern Wildcats at the Rose Bowl, but remarked, "I'll have to root for the Green Bay Packers in the playoffs". He also announced that the Milwaukee Public Museum will host the first meeting of the "Great Lakes Working Group of the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force" on March 30, 1996. Preregistration is required.

We stay in touch, so you stay in touch

NEWT

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HerPET-POURRI

by Ellin Beltz

Turtle-safe shrimp by May 1

A press release from the Sea Turtles Restoration Project <seaturtles@IGC.APC.ORG> reads: "70 Nations Must Adopt Sea Turtle Conservation Measures or Face Shrimp Embargo May 1. San Francisco (January 4, 1996) -- In a ruling that is being called one of the greatest legal conservation victories for sea turtles, a federal judge has ruled that all countries that export shrimp to the United States must adopt sea turtle conservation measures for their shrimp fleet by May 1 or face an embargo of their shrimp products. The lawsuit was filed by Earth Island Institute, its sea turtle project director Todd Steiner, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Humane Society of the United States, and the Sierra Club.

Judge Thomas J. Aquilino of the United States Court of International Trade (CIT) directed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and Commerce, the defendants in the case, to prohibit not later than May 1, 1996, the importation of shrimp or products of shrimp wherever harvested in the wild with commercial fishing technology which may affect adversely those species of sea turtles the conservation of which is the subject of regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce on June 29, 1987, . . . and to report the results thereof to the Court on or before May 31, 1996. The court, formerly called U.S. Customs Court, is in New York City.

'This decision will save more than a hundred thousand endangered sea turtles from needlessly drowning in shrimp nets every year, ending the largest killing of endangered species occurring in the world right now,' said Todd Steiner, Director of Earth Island Institute's Sea Turtle Restoration Project. Steiner, a biologist, estimates that at least 124,000 turtles may be captured and killed every year in the nets of shrimp boats outside the United States.

Turtle excluder devices have been required on most U.S. shrimp trawlers since 1989. The lawsuit was filed under a 1989 provision of the Endangered Species Act (PL 101-162) that requires foreign vessels to reduce turtle mortality to levels comparable to those of the U.S. shrimp fleet as of May 1, 1991, as a condition for exporting shrimp to the United States. The State Department interpreted the provision to apply to just 14 Atlantic and Caribbean nations, and even those countries were not required to reduce mortality on their Pacific coasts. The court ruling compels the State Department to ban shrimp imports from all nations that have not reduced sea turtle mortality from shrimp fishing operations by 97 percent, the level that can be achieved with the proper use of TEDs on all vessels.

About 70 countries export shrimp to the United States. The largest eight exporters to the United States (by weight) of wild caught (as opposed to farm-raised) shrimp are India, Indonesia, Thailand, Mexico, Malaysia, Brazil, Korea (ROK), and Japan.

'This lawsuit has successfully accomplished what we set out to do: end the government's violation of the law in order to protect these vulnerable marine animals from ultimate extinction,' said Josh Floum, an attorney [for] Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe, which is representing environmentalists pro bono. Dr. John W. Grandy, a vice president of The Humane Society of the United States, said, 'By accepting shrimp imports from countries that do not require their fleets to use TEDs, the United States inevitably contributes to the needless deaths of thousands of sea turtles. This is a wonderful victory for the turtles.' The decision (Slip Op. 95-208) was issued December 29, 1995. For more information, contact the Sea Turtle Restoration Project, seaturtles@earthisland.org or (415) 488-0370." Individual herpetologists will want to get copies of the Earth Island brochure to pass along to retailers.

Iguana condos on tropical isle

A Caymanian project built 44 custom cages for their endemic Grand Cayman blue iguanas at a cost of $14,400 US. Occupancy is at present 75 percent, as 30 pure-breds have moved in. Volunteers for the National Trust will take care of the animals which range in age from just a few months to adults received from the wild. Funding came from The Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and The Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. The project's goal is to increase blue iguanas in the wild which are currently believed to number about 200. [*The Caymanian Compass*, December 22, 1995, from L. W. Reed]

Herp-Commercial News

• The owner of a Schererville, Indiana, pet store was arrested and released on charges of the "sale or transfer of deceased animals, a felony, and abandonment and neglect of animals, a misdemeanor" according to the Lake County prosecutor. Police had served a search warrant on the store and, accompanied by local Animal Control and the Northwestern Indiana Humane Society, removed about 100 kittens, tropical birds, rodents and reptiles including one venomous snake. The electricity had been shut off and locks changed by mall management, leaving the fate of aquariums of tropical fish to your imagination. [Northwestern Indiana *Post-Tribune*, October 19, 1995, from Jack Schoenfelder]

• The owner of Scales and Tails, an exotic pet shop, watched helplessly as firefighters battled a blaze which cost the lives of many of his animals. A rabbit and several reptiles were "saved by the improvised technique of attaching small oxygen masks over the animals' heads, . . . " according to the *Gainesville Sun*. The owner said, "It's the most helpless feeling in the world to know your friends are suffering and there's nothing you can do about it." The fire began in a photo studio next door to the pet shop. More than 30 rescue workers responded to the alarm. [January 1, 1996, from K. Dodd]

A world without _____?

• The latest organisms to be reported missing in action are southern dusky salamanders, which have disappeared from

Glen Springs, Florida, without any apparent cause. A biologist with the Florida Museum of Natural History said, "There's something odd going on. We don't know what it is." No apparent disruption in its watery habitat has been observed. [*Gainesville Sun*, January 5, 1996, from K. Dodd]

• Meanwhile in Barton Springs near Austin, Texas, a group of specialists in engineering, biology and other disciplines have prepared a report which states that threats to the Barton Springs salamander, an endemic species, are "real and growing." The report also proposes a series of hydrology projects including the installation of containment and channeling features to divert runoff and drainage from roads and other structures. At present, some new developments channel runoff directly into the recharge zones and spring habitats most at risk. Chemical and petroleum spills upgradient from the springs need to be mopped up quickly and more attention paid to water quality monitoring, salamander population assessment, groundwater flow studies and testing for leaking sewage or increased sedimentation. Some Austin residents are speaking out against threats to the entire watershed which feeds Barton Springs. Unfortunately, "the salamander issue" raises two hot button topics, Texas-style: water and property rights. [Austin *American-Statesman*, September 24, 1995, two articles and original report from Chris Sanders who lives down the road from Barton Springs]

Living gators

• Alligator wrestling continued at the Monroe County, Wisconsin, County Fair in spite of protests by an animal protection group from Madison. County humane officers inspected the show which owners claimed to "promote education and preservation of alligators." [*Wisconsin State Journal*, July 21, 1995, from Dreux Watermolen]

• Regular readers may recall a story from about a year ago in which the battle to legalize a pet alligator in Florida was initially reported. All 7.5 feet of Gwendolyn, the 25-year-old friendly backyard alligator, have been declared legal after his owner spent a year in court and $15,000 on legal defense. Gwendolyn was removed from the backyard habitat even though in the quarter century he'd lived with the same person, he'd caused not one single injury. A party, complete with Gatorade, was held after his return. [*Miami Herald*, October 30, 1995, from Alan Rigerman] It seems that pet alligator prosecutions are going to be a fad in Florida. The day after I received the Gwendolyn clip from Alan, I received the following letter: "Right now I'm in the same situation [as Gwen's owner]. When I was living in Idaho I acquired two baby American gators from a Louisiana farm. When I moved to Florida this summer, I brought them with. I've been hassling back and forth with Fish and Game, which first said I could get a personal use permit and gave me the form to fill out, now they are denying this and stating that I have to have an alligator farm or a commercial exhibit. I have two weeks to appeal. . . . I do love my gators. Though close to five feet long they are tame. I have spent over $1,000 on a 30-foot chain link enclosed habitat with pool, and $500 on the lawyer. . . . Sincerely, Ardis Allen."

• High school students at Hahnville, Louisiana, were unimpressed by a 3-foot gator seen sunning itself alongside the pond adjoining the school. "He's a small one," said one junior. An administrative assistant said, "It's like a pet. Some classes go out to the pond as a reward. There are turtles there, too." [New Orleans, LA *Times-Picayune*, May 3, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

• "It was initially hard to tell who was less perturbed by the confrontation: Mr. Chatellier, the dog or the gator, which found its way onto the porch from the swamp behind the house on Pine Street," in Madisonville, Louisiana, according to the *Times-Picayune*. The man's wife said, "I'm actually more frightened of snakes." [April 14, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

• A live 2.5-foot caiman was captured in Medina County, Ohio, by a wildlife rescuer who initially identified his catch as an alligator. It was found in a family's backyard. They believe it was abandoned by neighbors who had recently moved. The rescuer said, "It's kind of sad, in a way. People get these animals as pets and then they throw them away." [Akron, OH *Beacon Journal*, July 6, 1995, from Bob Pierson]

• Does anyone know what happened to the 3-foot alligator found in Park Forest, Illinois? The *Chicago Sun-Times* ran an article on August 19, 1995, that said the gator was found under a car which had stopped at an intersection in a residential area. The animal was reportedly taken to Brookfield Zoo which was keeping it in a holding area. [from Claus Sutor]

• Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission officers raised 48 alligator eggs into hatchlings and released them into Lake Dora after two weeks of headstarting on hotdogs. The mother had been killed because she built her nest too close to the park's public walkway which was "obviously a threat to people. She very likely would've shown some very aggressive behavior," said a wildlife biologist. [Orlando, FL *Sentinel*, August 2, 1995; September 21, 1995, both from Bill Burnett]

• Stuffed alligators are popular again according to an article in the Leesburg, FL *Daily Commercial*. So who wants a stuffed gator anyway? "Restaurants, trading posts, souvenir places and photographers who take pictures of people standing on them. I also do a gator standing on his hind legs for [University of Florida] Gator fans," said a Wildwood, Florida, taxidermist. Fully stuffed, he gets between $3,000 and $4,000 each. [May 7, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

Which genus would you rather be?

The September 20, 1995, *Daily Commercial* of Leesburg, FL reports: "Residents of seashore condominiums were surprised to see an alligator paddling in the Atlantic Ocean. Curious spectators flocked to the beach to see the wayward animal, normally found swimming or lazing around a swamp or freshwater lakes and streams." A gator trapper shot and killed the 7-foot animal on orders of officials of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. [from Bill Burnett] In a separate incident a 9-foot crocodile that was found chilled and groggy at Miami Beach was taped, trussed and driven back home to the Florida Keys in the back seat of a car. [*Chicago Tribune*, December 28, 1995, from Ray Boldt]

St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Bird Sanctuary
Birds are taking advantage of security services offered by the collection of 22 species of crocodilians on display in the nearly 100 year old St. Augustine farm. Raccoons have been decimating bird nests elsewhere, but "Nature's most effective built-in home security system" is at work in this swamp. A few fledglings are lost every year to the gators waiting below the trees. [*The Daily Commercial*, 25 August, 1995, from Bill Burnett] Why am I thinking "Cretaceous Park" here? Could this be an ecological driver for wings?

Hunting season, 1995

• Louisiana's wild alligator season opened September 2 and closed October 1, 1995. In June, state biologists surveyed nesting areas by helicopter to determine the start date for the season, right after hatching time. "Terrebonne Parish has excellent alligator habitat. There are other places, but [it] is in the top 10. . . . There's the moisture, the bayous; nutria is the primary diet of alligators, and the habitat holds nutria," said a local expert. Wild alligators are getting to be a business down there with hides going for as much as $60–70 per foot. He added, "Those people in New Orleans will buy anything—heads, teeth, toes, jaws. . . . " [Houma, LA *Courier*, July 9, 1995]

• An 8-foot alligator was killed by a licensed trapper on orders from the state Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission because it had attacked one of two men which had entered a pond on a closed golf course in search of "a lost golf club and golf balls" at night. The men had a sack of balls on the edge of the pond, when the gator pulled one young man below water. His friend got him away from the gator and took him to the hospital, but was too shaken up to be interviewed. The golf course has warning signs about its alligators. The course director said that the one involved in this incident was called Stubby because he had lost about 1.5 feet off his tail. Stubby was between 30 and 40 years old. The director added "[Stubby's] been around here as long as I have. . . . There's gators in all of these ponds." [Orlando, FL *Sentinel*, July 25, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• "Hunting won't be a sport, some skeptics argue, until the deer start shooting back." Katherine Bouma wrote this lead for an article about hunting alligators in Florida. One wonders what alligator hunting would be like if it were sporting! One 12-foot, 5-inch, male gator just wouldn't give up. A hunter said, "He surged up out of the water and ripped metal off the side of the boat." They started taking on water and found a half dozen tooth holes in the boat. About one million alligators live in Florida; 3,498 hunting tags were issued. Curiously 8,909 people applied for $250 resident or $1,000 nonresident hunting licenses, and only 583 people won licenses good for six alligators each. The animals are sold to processors for $35 to $40 per foot for hides and meat. The minimum total taken in by my calculation is $2,227,250. Officials suggest that alligators will become an economic resource leading to habitat protection. [Orlando *Sentinel*, September 19, 1995]

• Florida hunting began in 1988 with 20,163 applicants in 1989 down to only 8,909 in 1995. Only 238 licenses were granted in 1988 compared with 583 in 1995. Each license is for six gators over 4 feet. From 1988 and 1994, hunters have taken 16,295 alligators. Also, 8,746 alligators were killed under "private land" permits. Thirty alligator farms collected 94,249 eggs from 1988 to 1994 from which 51,328 hatchlings emerged. Revenue from hide and meat sales in 1994 was $3.8 million in addition to tourism and licensing earnings. [*Daily Commercial*, November 8, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• South Carolina initiated its first legal alligator season in 31 years in 1995. About 100,000 alligators are believed to be living in the state—twice as many as in the 1960s. About 200 permits were granted for a month-long season limited to private property owners in four counties on the coast. [*USA Today*, September 19 and 21, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

Revenge of the crocodilians

• A 10-year-old boy was treated for a tear and puncture wounds after being attacked by an alligator while swimming in 4 feet of water with other children at about 5 P.M. in a 1700-acre lake. Officials promised to hunt and kill the 8-foot gator responsible [Orlando, FL *Sentinel*, September 25, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• Jungleland in Kissimmee is going to have a hard time finding help if their unlucky streak persists. The Orlando *Sentinel* reports that a second alligator wrestler was bitten at the attraction. The first man needed 12 stitches in his chin and cheek, the second lost the tip of a finger and received three puncture wounds. [July 28, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• "Surgeons reattached the left hand of [a 37-year-old] trainer, who was attacked by a 6-foot Cuban crocodile at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm where he was feeding the reptiles. . . ." *USA Today*, September 27, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• After one woman reported seeing a crocodile in a flooded section of the city of Bangkok, "Crocodile Fever" swept that town. No crocodile was ever photographed or proven to be present, but it got worldwide press. The clippings came in from Jack Schoenfelder [Northwestern Indiana *Post*], Ernie Liner [*The Courier*, Houma, LA], and J.N. Stuart [Albuquerque, NM *Daily Lobo*] all from September 29, 1995. Bill Burnett [*The Commercial Appeal*] and J. N. Stuart [Albuquerque *Journal*] both October 1 continue the tale: "Armed with electric prods, nets and rifles, the Thai navy set off in search of crocodiles Saturday as the government confirmed fears that hundreds of the reptiles are on the loose. Two weeks ago floods let loose about 300 of the animals from pits at farms north and east of the capital. The crocodiles were said to have slipped into the Chao Phraya River, which runs into Bangkok, and reportedly have bitten two villagers while they were fishing." Sounds like this urban legend is growing and growing.

Thanks to everyone who contributed as well as to Ray Boldt, Kathy Bricker, Mark T. Witwer and Marty Marcus. Newspaper doesn't weigh much, so you can send whole pages or clippings with date/slug and your name (address labels are best) to: Ellin Beltz, 1647 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-5507. Every clipping used or unused is acknowledged. Letters only via Internet <uebeltz@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu>.

Herpetology 1996

In this column the editorial staff presents short abstracts of herpetological articles we have found of interest. This is not an attempt to summarize all of the research papers being published; it is an attempt to increase the reader's awareness of what herpetologists have been doing and publishing. The editors assume full responsibility for any errors or misleading statements.

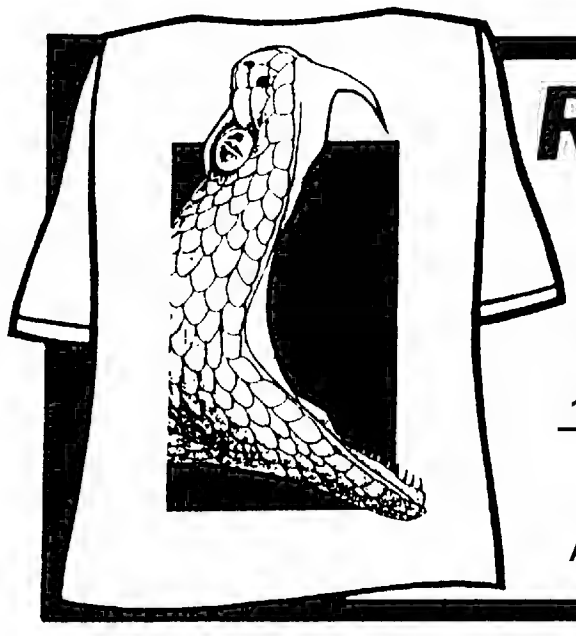
GROWTH RATES OF EASTERN FENCE LIZARDS

P. H. Niewiarowski [1995, Herpetologica 51(4):487-496] reports that geographic variation in growth rates of the eastern fence lizard, *Sceloporus undulatus*, is extensive and has been interpreted in various ways. For example, slow growth rates of lizards in eastern woodland populations might reflect phenotypic plasticity induced by low food availability, unfavorable thermal environments or a combination of both. By supplementally feeding free-ranging lizards from the New Jersey Pine Barrens, the author tested the hypothesis that food directly limits growth rate. He also reared juveniles from New Jersey and from the Savannah River Site in South Carolina in a laboratory "common garden" to test whether higher growth rates could be induced by ad libitum food, water, and unconstrained access to thermoregulatory sites, and whether there were population-specific differences in responses to the common laboratory environment. Supplemental feeding had no significant effect on growth rates of free-ranging lizards relative to unsupplemented control lizards, and laboratory growth rates did not significantly exceed field growth rates for lizards in New Jersey or South Carolina. The absence of an increase in growth rates of supplementally fed, free-ranging or laboratory-reared lizards relative to control animals and population-specific allometry between snout–vent length and mass in a common laboratory environment is consistent with adaptive hypotheses that assume differences between populations in growth rate and other life history traits are the result of genetic differences. The report discusses the implications for interpreting geographic variation in *S. undulatus*.

BROWN WATER SNAKE MOVEMENTS

M. S. Mills et al. [1995, Herpetologica 51(4):412-423] used mark–recapture techniques from August 1991 through September 1993 (52 sampling days) to study habitat use and movement of *Nerodia taxispilota*. They captured 411 individuals and estimated a linear density of 43 individuals/km of river habitat. River sections exhibiting the highest number of captures were clustered within 200 m of backwater areas; brown water snakes were not randomly distributed and were significantly associated with the steep-banked outer bends of the river and availability of potential perch sites. Recaptured individuals ($n = 50$) reaffirmed this habitat association by remaining in or moving to straight sections and outside bends of the river (90% of recaptures) with steep banks (88%) and a moderate to abundant concentration of perch sites (86%). Most recaptured individuals of *N. taxispilota* (70%) were found within 250 m of their previous capture site, but six moved farther than 500 m and three moved more than 1 km. Ten of 11 individuals that moved more than 10 m per day between captures did so from 12 August through 15 October, indicating a possible seasonal movement pattern. Distance moved by individuals was not associated with size, sex or number of days between captures; however, only large (>80 cm snout–vent length) individuals ($n = 8$) crossed the river (approximately 100 m). The authors found significant relationships between snout–vent length of basking individuals and perch height, perch exposure and perch substrate. This is the first published study of the spatial ecology and movements of *N. taxispilota* in natural populations.

Closeout SPECIAL



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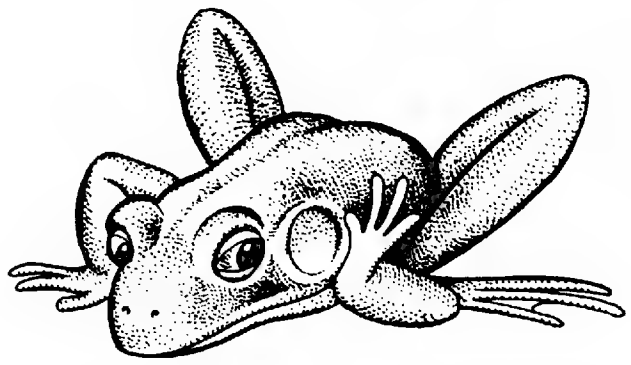

First and foremost, I would like to say that I enjoy and look forward to the HerPET-POURRI column in the CHS *Bulletin*. I just wanted to let you know of a mistake in the clip about the froghatching at the National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB). The article stated that the Giant Treefrog (*Phyllomedusa bicolor*) is a member of the poison dart frog group (Dendrobatidae), when in fact [it is a member] of the family Hylidae (treefrog group). The reporter for the *Baltimore Sun* must have been confused. The dart frog collection at NAIB is . . . large and known around the world, while their hylid collection is much smaller, but still incredible. I was lucky enough to be given a tour of the anuran collection at NAIB just after the metamorphosis of the giant leaf frogs (*P. bicolor*). At that time they were miniature replicas of their giant parents except they were a beautiful sky-blue instead of the normal green. At the time, it was not known if this was normal or an artifact of captivity. One interesting note: both *P. bicolor* and dendrobatids (three species) are used by the South American natives for their chemical secretions. The dart frog secretions, as you probably know, are used to tip arrows and darts. The secretions of *P. bicolor* are used as a hallucinogen that supposedly enhances hunting skills. Thanks again for a great column. **William Brown, Founder/Editor, International Hylid Society <102436.2415@compuserve.com>.**

Answers to the January Herp-Acrostic

The quotation in last month's Herp-Acrostic was taken from page 120 of *The Natterjack Toad* by [Trevor J. C.] Beebee: "I have described the fate of the heathlands at some length because here undoubtedly is the fate of the natterjack also. Only small and ever-diminishing pockets of this habitat now remain in England, the largest no more than a few hundred hectares in extent."

A. Batrachoid
B. Eurydice
C. Elongated
D. Bent toe
E. Edward H. Taylor
F. Everglades rat snake
G. Toad-in-the-hole
H. Hobart M. Smith
I. Endemism
J. Namib
K. Anthill
L. Tennessee
M. The staff of Aesculapius
N. Enoch
O. Ruthven's
P. Jeweled
Q. Anthrax
R. Chin
S. Knight
T. Teosinte
U. Off-the-shelf
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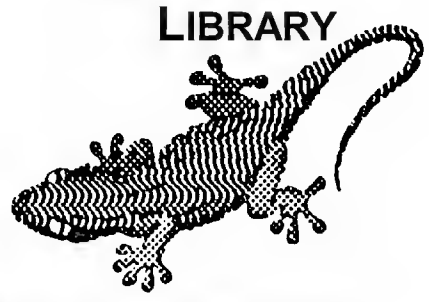

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Advertisements

American Federation of Herpetoculturists: A nonprofit national membership organization of herpetoculturists, veterinarians, academicians and zoo personnel involved in the captive husbandry and propagation of amphibians and reptiles. Membership includes highly acclaimed magazine, *The Vivarium*, dedicated to dissemination of information on herpetocultural accomplishments, herp medicine, breeding and maintenance, field studies and adventures, enclosure design and much more. AFH membership is $26. Send information requests to: AFH-News, P.O. Box 300067, Escondido CA 92030-0067.

For sale: rats and mice—pinkies, fuzzies and adults. Quantity discounts. Please send a SASE for pricelist or call Bill Brant, *THE GOURMET RODENT*, 6115 SW 137th Avenue, Archer FL 32618, (904) 495-9024.

For sale: top quality mice, rats and Chinese dwarf hamsters. All sizes at competitive prices. Gary W. Allison, 919 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem PA 18015, (215) 974-8975.

For sale: murine-pathogen-free rats and mice available in all sizes, live or frozen: pinkies, fuzzies, crawlers, small, medium and large. Frozen crawler mice in lots of 2000, $.17 each. Also available, full grown hairless mice. FOB shipping point. Master Card accepted. Call (518) 537-2000 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. or write SAS Corporation, 273 Hover Avenue, Germantown NY 12526 for prices and additional information.

For sale: high quality feeder mice. Shipped UPS Next Day Air. All mice are properly processed to insure a quality product. Fourth year of production and supply of frozen feeder mice. Prices: pinks, $25/100; fuzzies, $30/100; weanlings, $35/100. Also available are 4 oz.+ rats, $100/100. Quantity discounts available. The Mouse Factory, P.O. Box 85, Alpine TX 79831, (915) 837-7100, Ray Queen.

For sale: In stock, Flex-watt and Ultra-therm heating products. **Frozen rodents** always available. Mice: pinks–crawlers, 3/$1; weanlings, 40¢; subadult, 50¢; adults, 65¢; large adults, 75¢. Rats: small, 85¢–$1; medium, $1.25–2.00; large, $2.25–2.75; jumbo, 3/$10. Call on quantity discounts [note: discount on orders picked up at CHS meetings]. Live rodents available at higher prices. **Available now**: newsletter/catalog—many unique/hard-to-find herp husbandry items. Send business-size SASE for catalog, or call. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M, Serpent City, P.O. Box 657, Island Lake IL 60042, (815) 363-0290.

For Sale: **Reptile D-lights.** Our 8% is the first and only fluorescent light bulb that duplicates the UV-B output of the sun while having an excellent color rendition (CRI 91). Let your reptile make *exactly* the right amount of vitamin D. Stop under- or overdosing with all those powders. A must-have for iguanas, uromastyx, bearded dragons and all diurnal basking lizards. Get yours now! Available in 18″, 24″, 36″, 48″. $34.95 each plus shipping. In California please add 7.75% sales tax. Dealer inquiries invited. Scott Solar (909) 627-3274; 9 – 9 Pacific Time or; Reptek@gaol.com anytime. For Animal Use Only.

For sale: reptile cage disinfectant and deodorant. Kills many types of infectious disease detrimental to herps. $3.91 for 2 oz (makes 1 gallon). Wholesale and quantity prices available. Make checks payable to Bengal Pets, Inc., 1088 Chapman Road, Jesup GA 31545, (912) 530-6384.

For sale: used mouse-breeding racks, 36 trays per rack, complete with water bottles, trays and fresh breeding stock, $360 per rack. Very space efficient (17″ × 55″ × 80″h). Discounts available on multiple racks. MC/VISA accepted. The Gourmet Rodent, (904) 495-9024.

For sale: books. All-new titles relating to herpetology, botany, horticulture. Now available: *Rattlesnakes* (Klauber), paperback abridged edition, $15. For more information write to S.C.S. Reptiles & Natural Products Co., 1061 St. Clair Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105.

For sale: **Reptile parasite identification chart and formulary** by Roger J. Klingenberg, DVM—32 color pictures, size comparisons, laminated, and the parasites are keyed to the formulary for the best drug and proper dosage. Indispensible to veterinarians, lab techs and every serious reptile owner. Herpers—buy one for your veterinarian to improve his or her work on **your** reptiles! $12.95 includes postage. Send check or money order to Parasite Chart, % Casper Enterprises, 6297 W. 10th Street, Greeley CO 80634, (970) 351-0936 phone, (970) 352-6220 fax.

For sale: amphibian and reptile books. New, out of print and rare, over 4500 listed. My new 1996 96-page general natural history book list, which includes herpetological books as well, is also available. Send $2 for postage, refundable with any purchase, to: Herpetological Search Service & Exchange, 117 E. Santa Barbara Road, Lindenhurst NY 11757.

For sale: herp books. Auerbach–*The Amphibians and Reptiles of Botswana* (S), $75; Neill–*The Last of the Ruling Reptiles*, $70; Maki–*Monograph of the Snakes of Japan*, 3 vols., $450; Schmida–*The Cold-Blooded Australians*, $60; Pitman–*A Guide to the Snakes of Uganda* (1974 reprint), $250; Halstead–*Poisonous and Venomous Marine Animals*, $300; Wager–*Frogs of South Africa*, $35. Other titles available and I am always interested in acquiring new titles. Make check or money order to: Keith Neitman, 11415 Longbrook, Houston TX 77099

For sale: **Gila monster T-shirts**. SSAR Silver Anniversary poster of David Dennis' Gila monster watercolor in full color on 100% preshrunk cotton T-shirt. Shirts come in white or pink, adult sizes S–XL ($16.00), XXL ($19). Add $2 s/h first shirt, $1 s/h each additional shirt. Send check or money order to E.C.O., 325 W. Oakland Avenue, Lansing MI 48906 (donation from each shirt goes to SSAR).

For sale: one plated lizard (*Gerrhosaurus flavigularis*), with 20-gallon tank, very healthy and active, $30 or best offer. Craig Schnibben, (708) 985-5801.

For sale: bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*), breeding trio (one male, two female), approximately two years old. Jason, (414) 764-0493. [Milwaukee]

For sale: two red phase, male *Uromastyx acanthinurus*, long-term animals, healthy, very tame, $300 each; three Australian ridgetail monitors (*Varanus acanthinurus*), adult male and two juveniles, all captive-bred gems, $700 each. Will consider trade for *Uroplatus henckeli*, *Ptenopus garrulus* or *Rhacodactylus*, especially female or pair of *R. chahoua*. Bob Wallen, (813) 237-2530.

For sale: captive-bred Dumeril's monitors, *Varanus dumerilii*, $330 (10% discount to herp society members, $297). Mike, (770) 987-3933. [GA]

For sale: two male and two female captive raised Timor monitors, one female has produced eggs, $650. Dan, (312) 275-4716.

For sale: 1-year-old male Central American wood turtle, $60 or best offer. Jim, (708) 425-1152.

For sale: **Greek tortoises**, long term captives, very healthy and active. Dan, (303) 347-0394, eves. and weekends. [CO]

For sale: c.b. '95 corn snakes, beautiful Okeetee mother, dark anerythristic father, $25. Mike, (708) 717-9955.

For sale: male Korean rat snake (*Elaphe schrenki anomala*), c.b. '92, $100; male corn snake (blood-red/Okeetee cross—gorgeous), c.b. '94, $65; male multiple-intergrade American rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta* ssp.), $35. Leave message, (217) 384-6023. [Champaign/Urbana IL]

For sale: one male and one female Baird's rat snakes (*Elaphe bairdi*), c.h. 1994, good looking snakes with a subtle beauty, $30 each. Rick, (217) 344-2061. [Champaign/Urbana IL]

For sale: tricolors, albinos and a few secret projects. Send SASE for free price list. Robert Applegate, P.O. Box 338, Campo CA 91906, (619) 478-5123. Also, free husbandry consultation by phone, as a service to the herp community.

For sale: one male and one female **Sinaloan milksnakes**, c.b. '95, from Cosala area stock, nice colors and bands, $100/pair; two **California kingsnakes**, 50/50 desert phase, c.b. '95, $40 each. For Chicago area pick-up only. Rob, (708) 615-4388, leave message on voice mall.

Advertisements (cont'd)

For sale: adult male mid-Baja rosy boa (Bay of L.A.), proven breeder, $200; adult male coastal rosy boa (Hemet), $140. Also, 1996 list of captive-bred gray-bands, kingsnakes, milksnakes, rat snakes and pythons. Send SASE for list of potential offspring to: S.E.R.P., P.O. Box 1321, Palmetto GA 30268, (770) 251-4518.

For sale: one male and one female c.b. '93 Brazilian rainbow boas, exceptional, $800; one male and two female c.b. '90 Colombian rainbow boas, proven breeders, $450; one male and two female c.b. ball pythons, proven breeders, $250; eight male and eight female c.b. '95 Hogg Island boas, lots of pink and orange highlights, $250 each; one male and two female c.b. '93 albino prairie kings, hibernated and ready to breed, $300; one male and one female c.b. '90 albino speckled kings, proven breeders, $200; female speckled king, $50; two c.b. '94 northern bluetongue skinks, $200 each. Career obligations necessitate reducing the size of our collection. Mark and Kathy Wendling, (319) 857-4787. [IA]

For sale: rare boa constrictors. Expect limited number of c.b.&b. *Boa constrictor orophias* and *B. c. nebulosus* this year. Serious inquiries only. Jeff Murray, (615) 326-5225. [TN]

For sale: exclusively captive-bred and born, many offspring available at this time. Boa constrictors (a specialty, many races and subspecies: Colombian, albino Colombian, northern Amazon Basin redtails, Hog Island, Argentine, southern Brazilian, Dominican clouded); pythons (Borneo short-tail, green tree, Macklot's, jungle carpet, spotted, ball); rainbow boas (Brazilian, Colombian, Costa Rican, Argentine); many exceptional colubrids (Louisiana pines, Costa Rican milks, Honduran milks, Veracruz milks, Andean milks, corns, Everglades rats, Taiwan beauties and more). 1996 price list available soon. Call, write or fax for additional info. **Arco Iris Herpetoculture**, 1016 Andover Street, Clinton MS 39056, (601) 924-1409 phone, (601) 924-9766 fax. VISA / MC accepted.

For sale: male Sumatran blood python (black), zoo-bred '90, $250 (negotiable); c.b. '95 yellow anaconda, $175; one male and one female Jackson's chameleons, $150/pair. Also many other herps, supplies, foods and books available. Send SASE for current price list or $5 for a one-year subscription (12 issues). Triple Cities Reptile, 1136 Front Street, Binghamton NY 13905, (607) 771-1056.

For sale: yearling green tree pythons, zoo born and bred, $900 each; female diamond × carpet python, c.b. '94, $450; male jungle carpet, c.b. '93, $500; boas—male Bolivian, c.b. '94, $1000—one male and one female Mexican (lots of pink), $250/pair—one male and one female Colombian (pink sides and red tails), $225/pair—one male and one female clouded (*nebulosa*), c.b.?, 5′, $2000/pair. Also, North American milksnakes and one female *knoblochi*. Doug, (707) 745-5583. [northern CA]

For sale: captive-bred snakes. Blood pythons, Burmese pythons, Kenyan sand boas, black rat snakes, bull snakes. Will deliver in Chicago metro area or ship from O'Hare Airport. Joan Moore, (312) 528-4631.

Pet-sitting service: Complete in-home pet and plant care, specializing in reptiles and other unique pets. Dogs and cats welcome with open arms, midday dog walking. Experienced and dependable service by devoted animal lovers, serving Chicago and suburbs, reasonable prices, fully insured and bonded. Ask about our habitat consultation and custom-made cages. Exotics & More, (312) 728-5457 or page us at (708) 750-3688.

Software: **TRACS**™—Total Reptile and Amphibian Control System. The most complete database and reporting solution for automating your breeding records. Perfect for hobbyists, commercial breeders and institutions. Only $129 plus $5 shipping & handling ($10 outside U.S). Demo disks available for $10 (cost may be applied toward purchase price). IBM PCs and compatibles. For more information or ordering contact Marcia Rybak at Leapin' Lizards, 736 N. Western Avenue, #315, Lake Forest IL 60045, (708) 735-8205 phone or (708) 735-8206 fax.

Tours: Five-day South Carolina herp and fossil tours, April–November 1995. Mini expeditions in search of 30-million-year-old turtles and crocodilians; living reptile hunts (vipers, king and rat snakes, turtles, anoles, broadhead and five-lined skinks, treefrogs and other amphibians), exotic reptile shopping and camping in a black water swamp forest. Finest Charleston hotels beginning and end of each tour. Twelve people per tour. Family plans available. $489. For reservations call Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

Tours: Custom-designed tours to Costa Rica, Panama, Belize and Guatemala. Expeditions to fit the specialized needs of herpers, photographers, educators, writers, professionals in search of data, and travelers just interested in visiting these countries (with or without their families). From $649. Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

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Tours: Limited bookings available for guided tours of herpetological collection sites in Nevada. Call or fax (702) 471-0240 for reservations. For a brochure send SASE to: CRC, P.O. Box 0731, Las Vegas NV 89125-0731.

Wanted: Spanish marbled newts (*Triturus marmoratus*), especially *males*; and Chinese crocodile lizards (*Shinisaurus crocodilurus*). Object — starting breeding colonies. Eugene J. Herrmann, 336 NE Northgate Way, Seattle WA 98125, (206) 361-2251.

Wanted: adult melanistic garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) and albino garter snakes. Scott, (919) 848-2376.

Wanted: female *Varanus timorensis*, female *V. beccarii*, *Shinisaurus*. Mike, (770) 987-3933. [GA]

Wanted: *Boa constrictor melanogaster* or other unusual or rare boa constrictors, both valid and invalid subspecies. Jeff Murray, (615) 326-5225. [TN]

Wanted: big-headed turtles; mata mata turtles; Mexican giant mud turtles (*Staurotypus triporcatus*); exceptionally large common snappers (45 lbs. & up); large alligator snappers (over 90 lbs.); spectacled caiman from Trinidad, Tobago and Surinam; dwarf caiman; smooth-fronted caiman; albino turtles (except red-eared sliders). Walt Loose, (610) 926-6028, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. or after 11:30 P.M. Eastern Time.

Wanted: dealers of captive-bred reptiles and/or reptile supplies for the South Florida Reptile Shows, 9 AM – 5 PM, 2/24/96, Red Carpet Inn, Ft. Lauderdale FL, (954) 987-1501 phone/fax.

Wanted: Styrofoam boxes, any size or shape so long as they're not flimsy, preferably with cardboard liners, willing to pay from $2 to $5. Bring to CHS meetings. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M, Serpent City, (815) 363-0290.

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — $2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to: Michael Dloogatch, 6048 N. Lawndale Avenue, Chicago IL 60659, (312) 588-0728 evening telephone or (312) 782-2868 fax.

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, January 19, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. Board member John Driscoll was absent.

Officers' Reports:

The minutes of the December board meeting were read, corrected and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the board and accepted.

Membership: No report available. John Driscoll was absent due to a death in the family. On behalf of the entire CHS, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to John and his family on the passing of his mother.

Committee Reports

Adoptions: Char Haguewood announced that president Tony Rattin has appointed Bill Peterson to be the new Adoptions Chairperson.

Expo 1996: Ron Humbert will not chair this year's expo. However he will assist Tonya Maris who volunteered to do so. Tonya agreed to call together a committee of volunteers to assist her. Several members volunteered on the spot. To date, the expo is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend at Triton College. The facility needs our tax ID number. Marcia Rybak distributed a tally sheet she had compiled, showing statistics on last year's attendance. Char Haguewood will inquire about use of the Clarion Hotel for Expo '97.

Grants: Tony Rattin handed out information regarding the status of the grants program. After a lengthy discussion, Mike Dloogatch moved that the CHS Grants Program be increased from $2000 to $4000. Jack Schoenfelder seconded. The motion was defeated with Jack Schoenfelder abstaining and all other members voting against. A motion for a $1000 increase was made by Jack Schoenfelder and seconded by Marcia Rybak. The motion was denied by all members except Art Nohlberg. A third motion was made by Jack Schoenfelder and seconded by Art Nohlberg for an increase of $500. The motion passed, with Gary Fogel, Brian Jones and Jenny Vollman voting against. The grant program stands at $2500. There still is the contributing grant from Mardel Labs which brings the total grant monies to $3000.

Legislative: Chris Lechowicz reported that the state of Illinois has no new herp-related laws on tap for 1996.
Library: Jenny Picciola will attempt to attend all board meetings. The CHS library has approximately 300 books, 52 of which are out and overdue to current or former members. An attempt to recover these books will made via letters, announcements at general meetings and lists of "scofflaws" on the bulletin board. The board confirmed the existing allotment of up to $500 annually to purchase new books. Jenny will compile a wish list of desired books.

Programs: Chris Lechowicz announced that the originally scheduled speakers for USF&W and IDOC will be replaced by Sharon Lynn of USF&W. Ron Humbert will moderate.

Shows: The Chicagoland Family Pet Show is scheduled for March 22–24, 1996. Marcia Rybak will be speaking to the public on "Is a Reptile the pet for you?" Jenny Vollman will pass out a sign-up sheet for a limited number of volunteers to help. Gary Kostka will assist in running the show. Ron Humbert announced that a Shedd Aquarium show is tentatively scheduled for September 28–29. They are asking members of the CHS to display herps. There will be a Beginning Reptiles class and a Conservation class.

Workshops: Nicole Marrello is trying to schedule a cage and filtration workshop through Steve Swanson at The Grove. Dr. Cheryl Roge will be conducting another parasitology workshop soon and Tony Rattin will announce the date of the skull preparation workshops for this summer.

Director of Sales:

Gary Fogel informed the board that sales have been up this year. Jack Schoenfelder asked Joan Moore for an end of year inventory report. Joan agreed to submit one.

Old Business

Salamander Safari: Ron Humbert announced that Tom Anton will head up the upcoming Salamander Safari at Camp Sagawau. It is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 31, 1996. Jack Schoenfelder will also be working on this event.

New Business

Gary Fogel passed out a report on the income that could be expected from a sale of captive-bred herps. A show of hands revealed that the board favors conducting such a sale later this year. Char Haguewood has already inquired with the Clarion Hotel about the possibility of the CHS renting space on August 9–11. She will report back to us ASAP. Joan Moore volunteered to chair the event (applause).

Marcia Rybak announced that the CHS likely will be asked to contribute $100 toward an Exotic Animal Veterinary Scholarship Fund. No motion was made at this time.

A list of dates for the 1996 General and Board meetings was handed out by Tony Rattin, and amended by the board.

Round Table:

Jack Schoenfelder announced that the CHS subscription to the *Chronicles of Philanthropy* was about to expire. Jack moved that the CHS renew for a three-year period. Brian Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Joan Moore announced that Doug Mader's book, *Reptile Medicine and Surgery*, was in. She also has envelopes with the new CHS return address for anyone who wants them. Joan also asked that we exchange memberships with the Smithsonian Herpetological Department. Jack Schoenfelder so moved and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by the Recording Secretary,
Audrey Vanderlinden

Chicago Herpetological Society
Statement of Income and Expense

	1995		1994	
	INCOME	EXPENSE	INCOME	EXPENSE
Membership	36,672.00	3,007.33	40,334.50	2,584.11
Telephone		528.07		186.24
Members' Handbooks				1,751.24
Membership List	43.00	221.14	48.00	
Miscellaneous Postage		124.58		253.00
Monthly Programs		2,225.33		1,830.52
Supplies and Equipment		892.78	79.98	2,723.02
Books and Merchandise	53,500.94	47,341.66	58,259.84	56,671.32
Bulletin:				
Printing & Postage		28,666.42		33,394.59
Back Issues	134.50		111.77	
Advertising	915.66		1,772.25	
Raffle	2,032.50		2,089.00	
Board Meetings		60.00		240.00
General Meetings		1505.00		5,203.28
CHS Expo	12,543.10	8,008.23	9,339.42	7,711.82
Workshops	135.00			
Shows	1,719.55	1,022.63	2,466.00	1,231.88
Grants	20.00	1,890.00	100.00	2,000.00
Picnic				25.00
Donations	331.00	393.56	380.00	335.95
Refreshments	65.00	28.99	100.00	23.71
Library				393.65
Miscellaneous	1.29	565.33		32.45
Interest	427.74		420.70	
Returned Checks		184.00	65.79	87.79
Insurance		826.00		825.00
Awards		211.55		237.34
Field Trips			2,625.00	2,600.00
'95 Midwest Symposium	16,001.00	10,393.11		
	124,542.28	108,095.71	118,192.25	120,341.91

Cash as of 31 December 1994	**$24,185.61**
1995 Income - 1995 Expense	16,446.57
Illinois sales tax collected in 1995	1,986.55
Illinois sales tax paid to state in 1995	(1,691.92)
Cash as of 31 December 1995	**$40,926.81**

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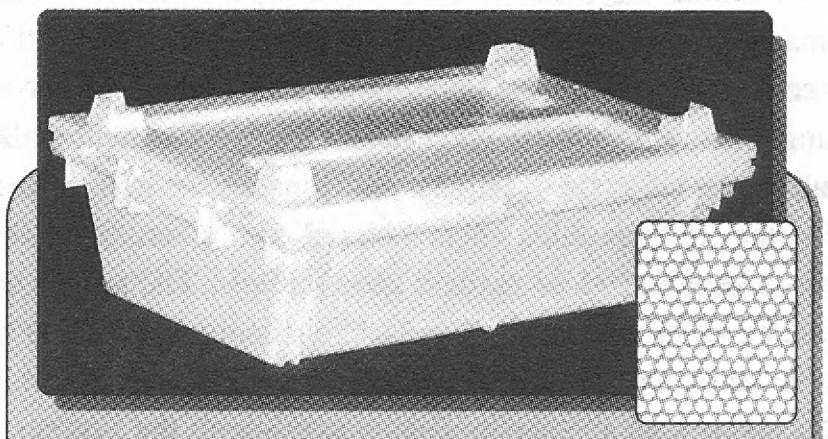

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CHS ADOPTION SERVICE

The Chicago Herpetological Society maintains an adoption service for reptiles and amphibians that are unwanted or can no longer be given proper care. Here are the rules:

- All animals are given free of charge to a qualified recipient.
- Qualified recipient means someone who knows how to care for that particular species, has suitable facilities (i.e., cages, aquariums, etc.), and will make a commitment to give the animal proper care.
- Anyone adopting an animal through this service agrees that it is not with the intent of selling the animal for profit.
- Those who need information on the care of an adopted animal are encouraged to purchase our CHS Care in Captivity publication or one of the species-specific booklets available from the CHS Book Service.
- We will put the parties involved in the adoption into contact with each other. It is up to them to make the transfer of ownership after discussing all relevant matters.
- Anyone wishing to be on the list as interested in adopting one or more species, or anyone wishing to place an animal for adoption should contact Bill Peterson by telephone (708) 798-3133, by fax (708) 798-3134, or by mail at P.O. Box 2345, Homewood IL 60430.

19TH ANNUAL ALL FLORIDA HERPETOLOGY CONFERENCE

The 19th annual All Florida Herpetology Conference will take place on Saturday, April 13, 1996, at the Reitz Union Auditorium of the University of Florida, Gainesville. This conference is cosponsored by the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Gainesville Herpetological Society. Speakers will include: Indraneil Das, Harvard University; James Dixon, Texas A & M University; Ellen Censky, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Ray Ashton, Water and Air Research, Gainesville; Dick Franz, Florida Museum of Natural History; Al Baldogo, Fontanelle, Iowa; Tom Tyning, Massachusetts Audubon Society; Winston Card, Dallas Zoo; Wayne Van Devender, Appalachian State University; Walter Meshaka, Everglades National Park. There will also be a concurrent afternoon session on "Current Gopher Tortoise Conservation Issues," workshops, Sunday field trips and a Saturday evening barbecue and auction.

For information, call David Auth at (904) 392-1721.

CHAMPAIGN AREA SOCIETY OF HERPETOCULTURISTS

The Champaign Area Society of Herpetoculturists (CASH) has recently been formed. The group is currently meeting once a month at the Anita Purves Nature Center, 1505 N. Broadway, in Urbana. On February 25, at 1:00 P.M., Dr. Chris Phillips of the Illinois Natural History Survey will speak on the "Natural History of Illinois Herpetofauna. On March 31 at 1:00 P.M., Ron Humbert of the CHS will speak on "Turtles Native to the U.S." On Saturday, April 27, they will hold their first annual Herp EXPO. For information call Mike, (217) 356-2385 after 5:30 P.M.

DECLINING AMPHIBIAN POPULATIONS TASK FORCE

The Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF), a unit of the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union, has recently lost a large fraction of its funding. Current funds will run out around June, and although the DAPTF Board of Directors is writing proposals for new grants, any such new funding cannot arrive for six to 12 months. Therefore the board is seeking contributions from the private sector. Checks in U.S. dollars may be made out to "DAPTF" and sent to: W. Ronald Heyer, Biodiversity Programs, NHB Mail Stop 180, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560.

TOURS FROM HERP QUEST INTERNATIONAL

Herp Quest International offers educational eco-tours to the herpetological community. Among the tours now being promoted are: The Sea of Cortez with Philippe de Vosjoli and Chris Wood (May 11-18); The Junior Naturalist in Puerto Rico; and an all-women Amazon Excursion (not clear from the brochure whether this is scheduled for April 13 or July 13). For brochures and information call (619) 630-3058 or write Herp Quest, 326 N. Indiana Avenue, Vista CA 92084.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, February 28, at the Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, in Chicago. South Florida wildlife biologist Joseph Wasilewski will be the featured speaker. Joe's topic will be "The Natural History of the Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida Bay and Everglades National Park, with Special Attention to the American Crocodile and the Diamondback Terrapin."

On March 27 three local CHS members will give presentations that originally were scheduled for last November's elections meeting, but which had to be postponed because we ran out of time. The three are: Anthony Rattin, speaking about his trip to the Llanos of Venezuela to study anacondas; Jennifer Picciola, with a report on her trip to the Caribbean to study rock iguanas; and Jack Schoenfelder, speaking on the use of herps in advertising.

We are required to use the entrance on the west side of the museum. We have permission to use the staff parking lot to the west of the museum. Entrance to this lot is from McFetridge Drive, the wide street just to the south, between the museum and Soldier Field. There is also free parking available in the lot to the north of the museum. The #146 CTA bus goes directly to the museum. Unfortunately, it does not operate past 9:00 P.M. However, after the program anyone needing a ride to a CTA stop will have no trouble finding one—just ask any board member.

Turtle Club

The Chicago Turtle Club will meet Sunday, February 25, 1:00–3:30 P.M., at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago.

Amphibian Club

The Amphibian Club will meet on Monday, February 26, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M., at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton. For information on this group, call Dave Golde at (847) 679-1530.

MARCH 31 SALAMANDER SAFARI

The annual CHS salamander safari will take place on Sunday, March 31. Preliminary plans are to meet at 9:00 A.M. at Camp Sagawau, 111th Street (Route 83) just east of Archer Avenue, in Palos Park. However, the availablity of this facility has not yet been confirmed; watch the *Bulletin* next month for a more definitive announcement. You are invited to observe and study (not collect) examples of the four local salamander species as they emerge from winter dormancy. Photography and handling will be permitted but all subjects must be returned to their point of origin. Bring snacks, waterproof boots, cameras and field guides to help you enjoy this chance to witness the earliest of local herp activity.

If you have any questions or need directions, call Jack Schoenfelder at (219) 929-1525 evenings or (219) 464-8514 days.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS — EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS AND OTHERS PLEASE NOTE

Exchange newsletters and all other correspondence should no longer be sent to the old CHS street address of 2001 N. Clark Street. Please change your records to reflect our new correct address: **Chicago Herpetological Society, 2060 N. Clark Street, Chicago IL 60614-4799**.

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